

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the office action dated December 4, 2007, in which the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 10, and 11 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and indicated that claims 1 and 4-9 are allowable.

Claims 1 to 11 remain pending.

Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 6, and 9-10 and respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons set out below.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 112

Claim 2 has been amended to remove the phrase "the level of temperature variation." Claim 3 has been amended to remove the phrases "the thus measured peak in the temperature variation per unit of time" and "the thus measured dip in the temperature variation per unit of time." The removed phrases have been replaced with phrases that have antecedent basis and are definite.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to change "a substantial part" to "a part," to remove repetitive text, and to clarify that the temperature change in the affected part of the formation can be brought about by either the addition or removal of heat. None of these changes, which serve to clarify the claim, affects the scope of the claim. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 1 is still allowable.

Likewise, claims 6, 9 and 10 have each been amended to clarify the claim language.

Finally, claim 10 has been amended to recite an apparatus.

Concluding remarks

Applicants believe that each ground for rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action has been addressed. Attorney respectfully submits that the specification and claims are in a state ready for allowance.

In the event the Examiner has any questions or issues regarding the present application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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